



STATE OF INDIANA
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Excise Police Issue 256 Tickets During Little 500 Weekend

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (April 22) – Indiana State Excise Police officers issued 256 tickets and incarcerated dozens of people in Bloomington during Indiana University's Little 500 events this weekend.

That's up 89 from last year, when excise officers issued 167. In 2010, they issued 158 tickets. In 2009, they issued 157; in 2008, 202; and in 2007, 103. Much of the increase can be attributed to additional officers assigned to the Intensified College Enforcement, or ICE, program, with the agency launched in February.

As in the last several years, the majority of tickets were for alcohol offenses, particularly illegal possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages. Officers also made arrests for theft, trespass, possession of marijuana, resisting law enforcement, false informing, furnishing or providing alcoholic beverages to a minor and public intoxication.

A Bloomington man was taken to IU Heath Bloomington Hospital for evaluation after an excise officer found him unable to stand or walk on E. 14th Street. The man, who had consumed almost half of a 1.75L bottle of Vodka, had just been released from the hospital, where he was taken after being found with a BAC nearly .50%. He told the officer repeatedly that he saved his life because he intended to drink until he died.

One 17-year-old girl from Tipton, Ind., came to Bloomington without her parents' knowledge and tested .20% BAC when she was caught by an excise officer. He called her parents to pick her up.

"Excise officers focused their attention on Bloomington this weekend, when alcohol violations are historically high as a result of Indiana University's Little 500," Superintendent Matt Strittmatter said. "A significant number of those arrested by excise police had high alcohol concentration levels as a result of dangerous binge drinking this weekend."

Roughly half of those cited were not Indiana University students. Instead, they were from other colleges and universities around Indiana and other states visiting Bloomington for the week-long party atmosphere.

Those cited by excise officers this weekend appeared in Monroe Circuit Court Sunday morning at 8:30. Most of them spent the day in alcohol awareness class and doing community service.

Indiana State Excise Police officers are the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission. While they are empowered to enforce any Indiana law, they focus primarily of alcohol, tobacco and related violations.